

Message Text

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21

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AF-06 ARA-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00

EA-07 EUR-12 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 IO-11 L-03 NASA-01

NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01 PRS-01

OES-03 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 NRC-05 OMB-01 SAM-01 MC-02

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R 191559Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 160

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

DIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, CCD, UR

SUBJECT: PRAVDA AND NOVOYE VREMYA ON MASS DESTRUCTION WEAPONS

1. SUMMARY. THE SOVIET PRESS HAS CHURNED FORTH TWO FURTHER
MAJOR PIECES ON THE BREZHNEV PROPOSAL FOR A CONVENTION
BANNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TYPES AND WEAPONS OF MASS
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DESTRUCTION WEAPONS (MDW), ONE OF WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN

AUTHORED BY THE HEAD OF THE SOVIET CCD DELEGATION. THE ARTICLES CONTINUE THE PATTERN ESTABLISHED BY THEIR PREDECESSORS, HOWEVER, IN PROVIDING LITTLE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON WHICH TYPES OF WEAPONS WOULD FALL UNDER SUCH A BAN. END SUMMARY.

2. PRWXVDA'S YURIY ZHUKOV, WRITING ON FEB 19, BEGINS HIS PLEA FOR THE MDW PROPOSAL BY ALLUDING DARKLY TO EVER-GROWING NATO MILITARY BUDGETS WHICH ENCOURAGE WESTERN INSTITUTIONS TO SEARCH ALL THE MORE DILIGENTLY FOR "EVER MORE DISASTROUS METHODS OF DESTROYING PEOPLE." HE WARNS THAT WESTERN MILITARY INDUSTRIAL COMPLEXES ARE FORCING NOT ONLY RESEARCH ON WEAPONS BUT ALSO ARE KEEPING AN EYE ON WHAT IS HAPPENING IN LABORATORIES DEVOTED TO PEACEFUL RESEARCH--FOR THE NEW PROCESSES AND DEVELOPMENTS MAY HAVE MILITARY APPLICATION.

3. ZHUKOV SAYS THAT ONE GOOD EXAMPLE OF SUCH A POSSIBILITY IS "GENETIC ENGINEERING", WHICH HE SAYS CAN LEAD TO MUTATION OF BACTERIA TO PRODUCE DISEASES WHICH COULD DESTROY MAN ON AN UNPRECEDENTED SCALE. HE CITES THE U.S. ACADEMY OF SCIENCE DECISION TO CEASE RESEARCH ON GENETIC ENGINEERING, BUT NOTES THAT AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF SCIENTISTS WHICH TOOK PLACE RECENTLY IN ASILOMAR, CALIFORNIA, DECIDED THAT SUCH RESEARCH SHOULD BE CONTINUED. ALL THIS, ZHUKOV SAYS, CAN ONLY LEAD TO GREAT CONCERN ON THE PART OF "PEACE-LOVING FORCES". HE ALSO NOTES THAT SENATOR KENNEDY HAS RECENTLY CALLED FOR SOME KIND OF GUARANTEE THAT SUCH RESEARCH WILL NOT GET OUT OF HAND.

4. ZHUKOV, IN SOMETHING OF A NON SEQUITUR, THEN SAYS THAT ALL SUCH DEVELOPMENTS WOULD BE COVERED UNDER THE BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION ALREADY IN FORCE, AND THOSE WHO FEAR THEM SHOULD INSIST ON "COMPLETE AND UNCONDITIONAL" OBSERVATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF THAT TREATY. HE ADDS, HOWEVER, THAT "ADVOCATES OF PEACE" ALSO CALL ATTENTION TO BREZHNEV'S MDW PROPOSAL. HE CONCLUDES THAT "PEACE FORCES" DEMAND THE "URGENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONCLUSION" OF A TREATY IMPLEMENTING THIS PROPOSAL.

5. "A. ARKAD'YEV" (CERTAINLY A PSEUDONYM AND POSSIBLY ALEKSEY ALEKSANDROVICH ROSHCHIN, HEAD OF THE SOVIET CCD DELEGATION) WRITING IN THE LATEST NOVOYE VREMYA, OUTLINES THE SIX MAIN TASKS FACING THE CURRENT CCD SESSION:

--THE MDW PROPOSAL
--ENMOD
--CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION
--"A REVIEW OF WORK ACCOMPLISHED TOWARD THE GOALDS
AND TASKS SET FORTH FOR THE DISARMAMENT DECADE"
--"THE URGENT NEED TO STOP NUCLEAR AND THERMONUC-
LEAR TESTS"
--AND "THE CONSEQUENCES OF PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS
FOR WEAPONS VERIFICATION".

6. THE BULK OF THE "ARKAD'YEV" ARTICLE IS DEVOTED TO
A DISCUSSION OF THE MDW ISSUE. HE ALSO WARNS OF
POSSIBLE MILITARY USE OF BIOLOGICAL MUTATIONS, AND THEN
RAISES TWO FURTHER POSSIBLE WEAPONS/WEAPONS SYSTEMS
WHICH MIGHT FALL UNDER SUCH A BAN: PROCESSES WHICH
WOULD ALLOW THE "FULL LIBERATION OF ENERGY" FROM MASS,
MAKING POSSIBLE WEAPONS A THOUSAND TIMES MORE POWERFUL
THAN CONTEMPORARY ATOMIC WEAPONS; AND THE CREATION OF
ORDINARY NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN THE "GIGATON" RANGE--OVER
1000 MEGATONS. "ARKAD'YEV" ADMITS THAT THE SOVIET
DRAFT CONVENTION CONTAINS NO DEFINITION OR LISTING OF
THE TYPES OF WEAPONS IT PROPOSES TO BAN, AND ADDS
"SUCH A DEFINITION, SCIENTIFICALLY FOUNDED AND CLEAR
IN ITS JURIDICAL FORM, SHOULD BE WORKED OUT DURING THE
COURSE OF NEGOTIATIONS AT (THE CCD)".

7. COMMENT. PROPAGANDA ON THE MDW PROPOSAL CONTINUES
TO FLOW, BUT REMAINS AS FUZZY ON WHAT THE CONTENT OF
SUCH A CONVENTION SHOULD BE AS WERE THE ORIGINAL HASTY
REACTIONS BY SOVIET PUNDITS TO BREZHNEV'S PROPOSAL
IN JUNE OF LAST YEAR.
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